

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network,
comprising:

5 broadcasting a request by a requesting peer for a resource over the peer-to-
peer network wherein the request contains an identification of the resource and the
resource identification contains a resource version identifier;

 receiving a response from a responding peer on the peer-to-peer network
indicating that the responding peer has the requested resource;

10 retrieving the requested resource from the responding peer; and

 verifying the retrieved resource by ensuring the retrieved resource contains
the version identifier embedded therein.

15 2. The method for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network of
claim 1, wherein said verifying the retrieved resource further comprises verifying a
digital signature of the retrieved resource to ensure integrity of the retrieved resource.

 3. The method for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network of
claim 2, wherein said digital signature is a 1024-bit VeriSign digital certificate.

20 4. The method for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network of
claim 1, further comprising installing said resource.

5. The method for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network of claim 1, further comprising retrieving a catalog containing a listing of resources.

6. The method for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network of claim 5, further comprising comparing the listing of resources with resources installed at the requesting peer to determine which resources are to be requested over the peer-to-peer network.

7. The method for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network of claim 6, further comprising requesting each resource to be requested in a separate transaction such that each resource to be requested may be retrieved from a same or different responding peer.

8. A product updating service for automatic and secure updating of a product installed at a node of a peer-to-peer network, comprising:

automatically downloading a catalog containing a current listing of resources for the product at a predetermined time, each resource being identified by a resource version identifier;

comparing the listing of resources in the catalog with resources installed at the node to determine which resources are to be requested over the peer-to-peer network;

requesting each resource to be requested in a separate transaction over the peer-to-peer network;

retrieving each resource to be requested from one of a peer in the peer-to-peer network and the Internet; and

verifying each retrieved resource by ensuring the retrieved resource contains the version identifier embedded therein.

9. The product updating service for automatic and secure updating of a product installed at a node of a peer-to-peer network of claim 8, wherein said verifying each retrieved resource further comprises verifying a digital signature of each retrieved resource to ensure integrity of the retrieved resource.

10. The product updating service for automatic and secure updating of a product installed at a node of a peer-to-peer network of claim 9, wherein said digital signature is a 1024-bit VeriSign digital certificate.

11. The product updating service for automatic and secure updating of a product installed at a node of a peer-to-peer network of claim 8, further comprising installing each of the retrieved resources.

5 12. A method for providing secure updating of a software product, comprising:
providing for retrieval over the Internet a catalog containing a current listing
of resources for the product; and
providing for retrieval over the Internet the resources for the product,
wherein each resource is identified with a resource version identifier and
10 contains the resource version identifier embedded therein.

13. The method for providing secure updating of the software product of claim 12, wherein each resource is digitally signed with a digital signature.

15 14. The method for providing secure updating of the software product of claim 13, wherein said digital signature is a 1024-bit VeriSign digital certificate.

15. A computer program product for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network, comprising:

computer code that broadcasts a request by a requesting peer for a resource over the peer-to-peer network wherein the request contains an identification of the

5 resource and the resource identification contains a resource version identifier;

computer code that receives a response from a responding peer on the peer-to-peer network indicating that the responding peer has the requested resource;

computer code that retrieves the requested resource from the responding peer;

10 computer code that verifies the retrieved resource by ensuring the retrieved resource contains the version identifier embedded therein; and

a computer readable medium that stores said computer codes.

16. The computer program product for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network 15, wherein said computer code that verifies the retrieved resource further comprises computer code that verifies a digital signature of the retrieved resource to ensure integrity of the retrieved resource.

17. The computer program product for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network 16, wherein said digital signature is a 1024-bit VeriSign digital certificate.

18. The computer program product for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network 15, further comprising computer code that installs said resource.

19. The computer program product for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network 15, further comprising computer code that retrieves a catalog containing a listing of resources.

20. The computer program product for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network 19, further comprising computer code that compares the listing of resources with resources installed at the requesting peer to determine which resources are to be requested over the peer-to-peer network.

21. The computer program product for securely sharing resources over a peer-to-peer network 20, further comprising computer code that requests each resource to be requested in a separate transaction such that each resource to be requested may be retrieved from a same or different responding peer.